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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : Confirmation No. 4336  
Ian E. Kibblewhite, et al. : Group Art Unit 2855  
Application No. 10/528,515 : Examiner: Jonathan M. Dunlap  
Filing Date: October 26, 2005 : (571) 270-1335  
For a Patent for :  
THREAD FORMING FASTENERS :  
FOR ULTRASONIC LOAD :  
MEASUREMENT AND CONTROL : December 9, 2010

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is being filed to advise the U.S. Patent Office of information which may be considered "material to patentability" in examining this Patent Application, in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed in this matter on December 9, 2009, advised the U.S. Patent Office of a U.S. Patent Application, No. 12/287,760, which was filed as a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 11/344,029 on October 14, 2008. U.S. Patent Application No. 12/287,760 has

since issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,650,792, on January 26, 2010.

The U.S. Patent Office is further advised of a U.S. Patent Application, No. 12/655,955, which was filed as a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 12/287,760, on January 11, 2010. An Office Action has issued in U.S. Patent Application No. 12/655,955 and the following documents are cited in the issued Office Action.

U.S. Patents

7,614,303 (McInerney et al.) - Issued: November 10, 2009

6,167,758 (Fomitchev) - Issued: January 2, 2001

5,150,714 (Green) - Issued: September 29, 1992

Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed in this matter on December 9, 2009, also advised the U.S. Patent Office of a U.S. Patent Application, No. 12/287,761, which was filed as a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 11/344,028 on October 14, 2008. U.S. Patent Application No. 12/287,761 has since issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,644,627, on January 12, 2010.

The U.S. Patent Office is further advised of a U.S. Patent Application, No. 12/655,954, which was filed as a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 12/287,761, on January 11, 2010. An Office Action has issued in U.S. Patent Application No. 12/655,954 and the following documents are cited in the issued Office Action.

U.S. Patents

6,103,072 (Nishiwaki et al.) - Issued: August 15, 2000

5,131,276 (Kibblewhite) - Issued: July 21, 1992

4,899,591 (Kibblewhite) - Issued: February 13, 1990

4,569,229 (de Halleux) - Issued: February 11, 1985

U.S. Patent Application Publication

2009/0038402 (Kibblewhite et al.) -

- Published: February 12, 2009

Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed in this matter on May 25, 2010, also advised the U.S. Patent Office of a U.S. Patent Application, No. 12/226,049. U.S. Patent Application No. 12/226,049 has since issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,823,458, on November 2, 2010. A "Notice of Allowance" issued for U.S. Patent Application No. 12/226,049 cited the following documents in an accompanying "Notice of References Cited" (Form PTO-892):

U.S. Patent

5,366,026 (Maruyama et al.) - Issued: November 22, 1994

U.S. Patent Application Publication

2006/0157262 (Chen) - Published: July 20, 2006

Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed in this matter on April 7, 2008, also advised the U.S. Patent Office of a U.S. Patent Application, No. 12/227,772. An Office Action has issued for U.S. Patent Application No. 12/227,772 and the following documents are cited in the issued Office Action.

U.S. Patents

5,291,789 (Walton) - Issued: March 8, 1994  
4,649,753 (Goodsmith) - Issued: March 17, 1987  
2,413,797 (Stone) - Issued: January 7, 1947

U.S. Patent Application No. 12/227,772 was derived from an International Application, No. PCT/US2007/012302, and was filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §371. The following documents are noted for being cited in the Search Report issued during the international phase of International Application No. PCT/US2007/012302.

U.S. Patents

6,340,868 (Lys et al.) - Issued: January 22, 2002  
5,211,061 (Goodwin) - Issued: May 18, 1993  
5,018,988 (Kibblewhite et al.) - Issued: May 28, 1991

U.S. Patent Application Publications

2006/0004290 (Smith et al.) - Published: January 5, 2006  
2004/0065154 (Kibblewhite) - Published: April 8, 2004

International Application No. PCT/US2007/012302 claims the benefit of a U.S. Provisional Application, No. 60/808,908, which was filed May 26, 2006. The following documents were cited in the specification of International Application No. PCT/US2007/012302, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/808,908.

U.S. Patents

6,990,866 (Kibblewhite) - Issued: January 31, 2006  
6,009,380 (Vecchio et al.) - Issued: December 28, 1999  
5,220,839 (Kibblewhite) - Issued: June 22, 1993  
5,018,988 (Kibblewhite et al.) - Issued: May 28, 1991  
4,899,591 (Kibblewhite) - Issued: February 13, 1990  
4,846,001 (Kibblewhite) - Issued: July 11, 1989

International Application No. PCT/US2007/012302 was published under the No. WO 2007/139834, on December 6, 2007. A European Patent Application, No. EP 07 809 160.0, was also derived from International Application No. PCT/US2007/012302.

A copy of International Publication No. WO 2007/139834 and the Search Report issued for International Application No. PCT/US2007/012302 are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement. Copies of the above-listed U.S. patent documents are not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement in view of the elimination of this requirement from 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)

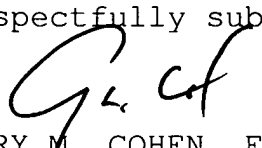
(See, Section 609.04(a), Part II(D), of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure).

Due consideration of the foregoing documents is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a)(2). It is further respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the above-listed documents by initialing the PTO-1449 forms (2) which are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement and which list the foregoing documents, and by providing applicants with initialed copies of the enclosed PTO-1449 forms to confirm consideration of the listed documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted together with a "Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal" under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.114. No fee is believed to be necessary for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. In the event that a fee is required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, any necessary fees can be charged to Deposit Account No. 03-2405.

Corresponding action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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